

EXCISE

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TELEGRAM

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SENT TO:

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RPTD INFO:

AMEMBASSY, LONDON 5793

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC
REVIEWED BY J. M. Razi
PORTIONS DELETED AS REQUESTED

773.5 MSP/1958

Department today responded to British Embassy as follows on points raised in their January 23 Memorandum on Libyan Army (deftel 569 to Tripoli):

1) US agreeable continuation British Military Mission provided it can assume full responsibility train Libyan Army of 4,500 men to be achieved two three years. Should Libyans so desire MAAG could complete initial training 1,000-man increment and will in any event be retained until Libyans make up their minds.

2) We feel British should be able provide adequate light equipment on grant basis from surplus stocks.

3) We would be agreeable in principle provide some equipment if desirable and necessary to supplement (2) but would like clarification as to what heavy equipment British have in mind.

4) British financial contribution should more than cover military portion Libyan budget.

British Embassy representative felt

DC/R

Final 47

Rev

Dat 12

Drafted by: AF: Gnes:dl 2-16-58

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Does Embassy Tripoli or Benghazi know present status UK-Libyan discussions and whether Libyans still pressing on military assistance?

FII. Failure Libyans accept US military assistance offer making it extremely difficult justify retention MAAG much less allocate funds for even tentative FY 59 program.

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Jalles
(G.H.)

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